

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR FEBRUARY 1948

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Columbia River Gorge, near The Dalles, Oreg.	5-6	10 p. m., 5th— 4 p. m., 6th.	1-2	-----	\$9,000	High wind and snow.	High winds up to 60 m. p. h., swept through Columbia Gorge, swamping 2 boats and driving a tug and empty oil barge on rocks. Power poles blown over; stacked lumber at The Dalles and near Umatilla scattered. 16 inches of snow fell in The Dalles in 20 hours. \$4,000 loss to Government and private contractor. \$5,000 loss to navigation company.
Aberdeen, Miss.	8-9	Night, 8th— day, 9th.	-----	-----	25,000	Glaze and sleet.	Freezing rain, accompanied by occasional snow and sleet. Streets, trees, wires, and buildings coated with ice. Power and communications disrupted; trees felled.
South Carolina, northern and central portions.	9-10	Afternoon, 9th— morning, 10th.	-----	-----	-----	Snow, sleet, and glaze.	Comparatively severe, causing State-wide traffic interruption and minor motor accidents.
Kansas, southwestern portion.	10-11	Night, 10th,— morning of 11th.	-----	3	-----	Blizzard.	Near zero temperatures; 3 to 7 inches of snow; and high winds, especially in Meade, Ford, and Clark Counties, where roads were blocked 1 or 2 days. 3 persons met death from exposure in northern Meade County.
Toltec Gorge, Colo.	11	P. m.	-----	-----	5,000	Snow slide.	14 persons injured as 3 passenger cars of the Rio Grande Western R. R. were caught in snowslide and carried 300 feet down gorge.
Elk Springs, Colo.	11	-----	-----	-----	-----	Blizzard.	U. S. Highway 40 blocked for a day by drifts 12 to 14 feet deep.
Monticello, Miss.	13	11 a. m.	-----	0	15,000	Tornado.	A probable tornado destroyed 2 homes and many trees about 12 miles south of Monticello. No injuries.
Newton, Miss.	13	12:30 p. m.	100	5	100,000	do.	Tornado passed east of town, destroying about 30 homes and a hangar, and cutting a freight train into 2 parts. It moved northeastward in zigzag course and over a course almost identical with that of a previous tornado. 25 persons injured.
West Virginia.	13-15	-----	-----	7	-----	Flood.	Streams overflowed banks locally. Maximum flood stage of record at Clarksburg. Many roads blocked 12 to 24 hours by high water and minor landslides; small bridges washed away. Damage to roads and bridges estimated at \$305,000. Portions of dozen or more cities and towns inundated as high as ceilings of first floors, causing considerable damage.
Cascade County, Mont.	15-16	4 p. m. 15th— 3 p. m. 16th.	-----	-----	1,000	High wind.	Southwest wind, estimated at 75 m. p. h., damaged windows, roofs, chimneys, and small buildings.
Helena, Mont.	16-17	10 a. m. 16th— 5:30 a. m. 17th.	-----	-----	5,000	do.	Maximum velocity of 49 m. p. h. on 17th, set a new record for February. Peak gust of 74 m. p. h. on 16th.
North Dakota, entire State.	18	Afternoon and night.	-----	2	20,000	High wind and blowing snow.	Storm most severe in northwestern portion. Highways blocked, and some damage to farm buildings. Two farmers, lost in storm, were frozen to death.
Beckham County, Okla.	19	10:30 a. m.	-----	-----	1,000	High wind.	Gust of wind demolished high school gymnasium under construction at Elk City.
Milwaukee, Wis.	19	11 a. m.—6 p. m.	-----	1	51,000	Wind.	Steel framework of warehouse under construction collapsed, killing 1 workman and injuring 3 others. Several plate glass windows broken, utility service disrupted, and 4 persons injured in city.
Minnesota.	19	-----	-----	-----	25,000	do.	Considerable minor damage to property and trees. Traffic seriously delayed by snow drifts and poor visibility in northern and western portions. Storm accompanied by light snow and cold wave.
Near Sumter on Wateree River, S. O.	21	Afternoon.	-----	3	-----	do.	Three fatalities from drowning as boat was upset by wind.
Burley, Idaho.	22	do.	-----	-----	-----	Windstorm.	Barn blown down, killing 1 cow; 8 other cows injured and had to be destroyed.
California, southern portion.	22-24	-----	-----	-----	-----	Wind.	Winds up to 80 m. p. h. struck many sections, including the Mojave Desert. Trees uprooted, signs and fences blown down, windows broken, and power lines severed.
Douglas, Ariz.	23	11:14 a. m.—3 p. m.	-----	-----	2,000	High winds.	Gusty winds from 50 to 60 m. p. h., toppled several garages and fences, uprooted trees, broke power lines, damaged roofs, and smashed plate glass windows.
Rotan, Tex., and vicinity.	26	5:30 p. m.	Narrow	-----	3,000	Wind.	Private hangar and several roofs damaged.
Roscoe, Tex., and vicinity.	26	7 p. m.	1 25	-----	3,000	do.	Barns, houses, and windmills damaged.
Mertzon, Tex., and vicinity.	26	7:30 p. m.	440	-----	1,350	Hail and wind.	Roofs and garages damaged; lambs killed by hail.
San Angelo, Tex., and vicinity.	26	7:52 p. m.	1 30	-----	75,000	Wind.	Radio tower blown over; plate glass windows broken; utility lines blown down; 12 planes at Goodfellow Field damaged.
Kerrville, Tex., and vicinity.	26	8:30 p. m.	200	-----	3,000	do.	Fruit trees uprooted, fencing destroyed, poultry killed, and chimneys blown down.
Ballinger, Tex., and vicinity.	26	do.	1 3	0	100,000	Tornado, hail, and wind.	Bruce Field hangar destroyed; 8 planes damaged.
Mason, Tex., and vicinity.	26	9:20 p. m.	1 20	-----	10,000	Wind.	Windmills damaged, trees blown down, and metal roofing torn.
Comanche, Tex., and vicinity.	26	10 p. m.	1 2	-----	30,000	do.	Plate glass broken and roofs damaged.
Ranger, Tex., and vicinity.	26	do.	Narrow	2	-----	Tornado.	One home destroyed; 1 barn unroofed; filling station and store damaged.
Woodson, Tex., and vicinity.	26	10:25 p. m.	200	0	75,000	do.	32 homes damaged, with 7 completely destroyed.
Lewisville, Tex., near.	26	Evening.	Narrow	1	-----	do.	A woman, pinned in wreckage of her home, burned to death. Storm occurred about 7 miles west of Lewisville in Bartonville community.
Itasca, Tex., and vicinity.	27	12:15 a. m.	100	-----	7,500	Wind.	Unroofed an ice factory; destroyed front on 4 brick store buildings; windows broken in residences.
Bloomington, Ind.	27	5 p. m.	-----	-----	3,000	do.	Trees down; minor damage to buildings.
Centerton, Ind.	27	5:30 p. m.	30	0	10,000	Tornado.	Path 1 mile long.
Knox County, Ind.	27	-----	-----	-----	2,000	Wind.	Trees and barns damaged.
Minnesota, west-central, central, and east-central counties.	27-28	-----	1 90	-----	100,000	Glaze, sleet, snow, and wind.	Many poles, wires, and power lines down, causing communication and electric services and traffic to be seriously disrupted. Many side roads blocked by snowdrifts. Thickness of ice and snow on wires, 1/4 to 3 inches in diameter. High winds contributed greatly to damage. Heaviest snow and ice formation from North Dakota border southward to Willmar and Glencoe, then eastward to Wisconsin border. Length of path, 200 miles. Estimated that about 4,172 wire breaks occurred and about 529 poles fell.
South Dakota, south-central and northeastern portions.	27-28	-----	-----	-----	18,000	Rain, sleet, and heavy snow.	Rain turning to sleet and rather heavy snow damaged telephone lines badly. Transportation interrupted.
Santee Cooper Lake, S. C.	28	Afternoon.	-----	3	-----	Wind.	Three fatalities from drowning as boat was upset by winds.
Ohio, entire State.	28	-----	-----	-----	-----	High winds.	Damage, mostly of minor nature, to trees, public utility lines, and small buildings.

¹ Miles instead of yards.

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LATE STORM REPORTS FOR JANUARY 1948

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Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Hawaiian Islands.....	23-25	-----	-----	-----	-----	Rain and high wind.	Some damage on Islands of Maui and Molokai, chiefly due to flooding. Greatest damage on Island of Oahu, where roads and streets were damaged by washing; hundreds of trees blown down or mutilated, and many buildings suffered minor roof and plate glass damage. Several small planes swept loose from moorings and severely damaged; regular plane schedules disrupted. Power lines broken. Over 1,000 phones put out of order. Wind reached extreme velocity of 62 m. p. h., on 24th. Cumulative damage at innumerable points estimated by press as high as \$250,000.
Anna Maria Island, Fla.....	24	3:15 a. m.-----	-----	0	\$25,000	Tornado.....	Occurred in connection with squall line ahead of cold front. Damage to several dwellings on island; heavy damage to packing house near Rubonia on mainland in Manatee County.
Laupahoehoe and vicinity, Island of Hawaii.	30	-----	-----	-----	-----	Heavy rain.....	Highway traffic blocked by landslide. Damage to roads and buildings, and to fields by erosion, estimated \$25,000. Rainfall within 4-hour period, 11 inches.